

REMARKS

In the June 20, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner indicated that “claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims,” but otherwise rejected the remaining claims as obvious over one or more of the following references: U.S. Patent No. 7,073,054 to Kim; U.S. Patent No. 5,860,083 to Sukegawa; U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0162950 to Coulson; “Applicant’s Admission of Prior Art”; and U.S. Patent No. 6,996,743 to Knapp III. In order to expedite allowance of the application, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 8 as required by the Examiner. As a result, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-6 (which depend from amended claim 1) are also allowable. In addition, Applicant has amended the remaining independent claims (claims 9 and 16) to include the allowable subject matter identified in claim 8. As a result, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-13, 15 and 18-19 (which depend from amended claims 9 and 16) are also allowable. By amending claims 1, 9 and 16, Applicant is not conceding in this application that the subject matter of the original claims is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the amendments are permitted under 35 CFR § 1.116(b)(1), and respectfully request that claims 1, 3-6, 9-13, 15-16 and 18-19 be allowed.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 512-338-9100.

FILED ELECTRONICALLY
September 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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